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government libraries, home and foreign. The war necessarily reduced the accessions from abroad from 14,850 to 9,619.

To facilitate the continued receipt of German and Austrian material, Mr. Koch, chief of the order division, spent several months abroad. His fortunate presence in London resulted in the gift of a large and valuable collection of "Whistleriana" by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Pennell, the artist's biographers. The collection, contained in fourteen cases, includes many of Whistler's drawings and paintings, hundreds of letters to and from distinguished people, and books on the arts in which Whistler was preëminent. Several valuable specimens of fifteenth century printing were also acquired.

Recent acquisitions have added materially to the library's collection of foreign law material, material in which most of our state libraries are weak.

The report includes an article by Julean Arnold, American commercial attaché to China and Japan, with the suggestive title, "Get the map habit," a plea for the better understanding of the countries whose trade we solicit.

The indebtedness of the large libraries of the country to the library of congress for copies of the printed catalog cards of our great national library, made accessible by purchase soon after Mr. Putnam entered upon his duties as librarian, cannot better be measured than by the fact that the number of subscribers for these cards is 2,559, an increase of 189 since 1916. The titles of cards represented in stock number about 735,000.

The legislative reference of the library is fast growing. In 1915, when the service was new, it registered 269 inquiries; in 1916, 756; in 1917, 1,280. Of the 1,280, 471 relate to law; 809 relate to economics, statistics, and history. The inquiries came mainly from congressmen, and followed closely the prevailing subjects of general interest before congress, most of them covering a wide range of questions growing out of the war. It may reasonably be anticipated that this relatively new service will be greatly extended, and that the libraries and historical associations of the country will in the near future find it the great central source of information on all questions of public interest.

JOHNSON BRIGHAM

*Handbook of manuscripts in the library of congress.* (Washington: Government printing office, 1918. 750 p. \$65)

The students and writers of American history will be glad to make the acquaintance of this detailed index of the richest manuscript collection in this country. The handbook is practically a subject catalog of the collections arranged alphabetically and designed "to present the

whole resources of the division in a comprehensive way." Each collection is entered under a chosen title, followed by a brief account of its size and origin, a list of dates represented, and an itemized description of the contents. Under headings from which a collection might be sought, cross references are given to the particular title that has been chosen. The main body of the catalog is preceded by a list of the larger collections, grouped under twenty-five general headings, such as military, literary, political, and others, with a few more specific headings as revolution, Indians, and Washington City. An elaborate index of two hundred and four pages gives further details to the student.

ETHEL VIRTUE

*The American Indian.* An introduction to the anthropology of the new world. By Clark Wissler, curator of anthropology, American museum of natural history, New York City. (New York: Douglas C. McMurtrie, 1917. 434 p. \$2.50)

This book is everything that one should expect from such an authority. Free from technicalities, yet thoroughly scientific, it fills a place heretofore vacant in the study of American anthropology, if we except the work of Brinton in 1891, or that of Latham more than a half century ago.

Nor may either of these be properly mentioned in the same field, but for the fact that they endeavor to give, as does Mr. Wissler's book, a classification according to linguistics of both the North and South American continents. As an attempt to cover the whole range of anthropological science, as it relates to the Americas, the book is an eminent success. Nearly every phase of the subject here gathered into one volume has been touched upon before by equally distinguished writers, as the author shows in his chapter references; and monographs in one form or another have been available; but here for the first time, and in an orderly sequence according to his own fearless method, is a book which cannot fail to command the attention of all students of American Indian life.

The volume is composed of twenty-one chapters of some length. The first of these properly begins with a description of the food areas of the new world. As the author contends, this is easily of prime importance. It gives basis for an excellent thesis, as it is obvious that the fundamental security for man's very existence is the amount and kind of sustenance he may acquire within certain defined limits. Mr. Wissler distinctly draws the line between his study of the Indian as a man and his broader field of research, and in this his book is decidedly an anthropological and not an ethnological treatise. He reviews in the chapters which follow: the textile arts, the ceramic arts, decorative and textile designs, architecture, work in stone and metals, industries, mythology,